

DURANT WEEKLY NEWS

Official Paper of Bryan County

By E. M. EVANS

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Terms of Subscription:

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Any erroneous reflection on the character, standing, or reputation of any person or persons, firm or corporation, or any misstatements which may appear in the columns of the News will be gladly corrected upon their being brought to the notice of the publisher.



FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1918.

WHY THE PENITENTIARY?

Out at Mead lie buried the remains of a mother of twelve children, made orphans by the frenzied attack of an escaped criminal negro brute, upon whom swift vengeance was wreaked by an infuriated mob, and another crime has been committed so bestial as to incite peaceful citizens to mob violence; another home has been robbed of that mother love all children need, and that guiding hand and mother's care all homes should have.

The brute that committed the awful crime was at work on the State convict farm near Aylesworth, and escaped with other negro criminals. It is told us that this negro was serving a life sentence for murder, and was known by his guards and keepers to be a dangerous criminal, and one that needed constant watching.

In light of the facts, the News is constrained to ask why criminals known to be dangerous in spirit are given that freedom necessary to be given them on a convict farm. Why they are allowed that measure of liberty that makes it possible for them to escape and commit further crimes. Why the duly authorized officials ever permitted that particular negro to be placed anywhere than in the prison walls at McAlester.

It has been said many times by thinking men that criminals are not confined as a punishment for their act or acts, but to protect society from a repetition of the crime. Then, why is it that life-termers sent to the penitentiary for brutal murder are placed on a convict farm, where their very presence is a menace to the community? Why is it that they are not confined to the prison where they have been sentenced to spend their days, as a matter of protection others from their further violence?

Officials may say that the penitentiary must be made self-sustaining, and that the operation of the convict farm to a profit is necessary. In reply we say that the financial gain or loss to the penitentiary system is of no importance whatever as compared with the best interests of society which demand the detention of dangerous criminals.

Officials may say that this particular negro was not known to be dangerous. In reply to this we say, it is their business to know intimately of every prisoner in their keeping before they venture to experiment with the so-called honor system, or any other method of handling prisoners that permits of opportunity to escape; or the farming-out system, or the practice of paroling prisoners to go home and attend to their affairs.

Officials may even deny that the particular convict was dangerous or gave any evidence of criminal degeneracy. In reply we say that all murderers given a life sentence for murder, after the hearing of the evidence by a jury, are dangerous, and there may be no valid excuse for prison officials altering the findings

of the jury and the mandate of the trial judge.

Frankly, the News admires the application of enough business common sense to make our penal institutions self-supporting, but if in the financial operation of the penitentiary it is necessary to loan on dangerous criminals, we dare to say that every consideration of the State prefers that the penitentiary lose money, and let us do it if necessary.

The honor system applied to all criminals would render poor class the criminal court. It fails to encourage wholesome crime, and defeat the very purpose of confining criminals for their crimes. It may be justly applied in particular cases, but a keen insight into human nature is necessary on the part of the official directing the system, if the plan is to succeed.

There are criminals, made so thru just for sin, who may probably be safely given their liberty to a limited extent during their incarceration, and who will observe the rules, then desire for full freedom, but who will again take up the old path when they are again free.

There are other criminals, victims of a pathological condition of mind, with a lust for blood, with criminal instincts which no amount of restraint will alleviate and no amount of education remove. It is this class of criminals, far in the minority, who need the careful restraint, who brook no liberty, and who kill for the love of it, and rebel at the first opportunity. It is no doubt to this latter class of criminals the negro brute belongs who committed the crime that incited a mob to violence.

There are enemy aliens and there are native aliens. The American who does not do his part toward winning the war, who neither fights, nor works, nor lends for victory is as much an alien to America's purposes and America's cause as the rankest Prussian interned in this country.

POLITICAL NEWS AND COMMENT

Whether the attack is well founded or not, the News sees a well defined sentiment here for J. H. Johnston for Corporation Commissioner, and which has grown since the State Democratic Central Committee sent out its statement branding him as a Republican seeking office under the Democratic banner. The News is not seeking to discuss the veracity of the committee in its statement regarding Mr. Johnston, but merely wishes to call attention to a well-defined general opinion that the State Central Committee has no business opposing or supporting officially any aspirant for the party's nomination before the primaries.

The rumor persists that certain State officials, themselves not candidates for nomination to office or renomination for their present positions, are handing out the cards of Robertson for Governor, Walker for Corporation Commissioner, and Samuels for Insurance Commissioner. People generally, who do their own thinking, rather resent an officer's action in attempting to name his successor or the successor of any other officer; and we feel that such a practice, if it is really carried on, will meet with scant sympathy.

About the best compliment paid Bill Durant is the entire absence of one word of attack upon him in his race for Governor. The better the other fellow knows Bill, the more he realizes that there isn't anything to Bill's discredit to spring. Naturally, the only cry they can make is that "He hasn't got a chance." It is noted, however, that Bill Durant and Bill Durant's friends, are quietly working in about every county in this great State, letting other candidates severely alone, and slowly but surely showing fairminded voters that the best qualified man in the race for Governor is Bill Durant. It is also to be noted that the Durant followers have not attempted to buy all of the available newspaper advertising space in the papers of the

RAILROAD TIME TABLE

The following schedule of trains in and out of Durant is published gratis as information for readers of the News. While care will be used in an endeavor to keep it up to date, its accuracy cannot be guaranteed by this paper:

M. K. & T. Railroad
(Southbound)

No. 7	12:27 p. m.
No. 5	1:59 p. m.
No. 3	2:10 a. m.
No. 9	4:20 a. m.
(No. 7 doesn't run Sunday)	
(Northbound)	
No. 6	12:27 p. m.
No. 8	5:45 p. m.
No. 10	12:25 a. m.
No. 4	7:40 a. m.
(No. 8 doesn't run Sunday)	

FRISCO RAILROAD
Eastbound Westbound

10:45 a. m.	9:05 a. m.
* 7:05 p. m.	7:40 p. m.

M. O. & G. RAILROAD
(Southbound)

No. 9	9:45 a. m.
(Northbound)	
No. 10	5:33 p. m.
* Do not run Sundays.	

DURANT WEEKLY NEWS

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1918

RED CROSS NOTES

HIGH SCHOOL WORKROOM

In the past month, under the capable direction of Mesdames Jones and Gastrup, the High School Workroom made 2,560 surgical dressings. Miss J. D. Abbott was in charge of the cutting.

NORMAL WORKROOM

The summer students of the Normal School have done splendid work in the surgical dressing department under Mrs. Lola Holmes.

ELKS CLUB WORKROOM

The surgical dressing department off the past week made 246 many-tail, and 476 absorbent pads.

Mrs. Sam Swinney, chairman of the surgical dressing department, requests every lady working in this department to bring her own needle, thimble, and scissors.

SOUTH SIDE AUXILIARY

This auxiliary has made 75 refugee garments, and will specialize on knitting in the future.

The shipping committee reports 12,260 surgical dressings, valued at \$3,160, sent to St. Louis headquarters, and 280 refugee garments valued at \$179.

RED CROSS SCHEDULE

Surgical Dressing Department, Mrs. Sam Swinney, Chairman

INSTRUCTORS

Monday — Mesdames Berry and Work

Monday Evening — Mesdames Cole and Hampton

Tuesday — Mrs. Jim Stone

Wednesday — Mesdames Cole and Hudspeth

Thursday — Mrs. Blakeney

Thursday Night — Mrs. Lola Holmes

Friday — Mrs. Sam Swinney

Saturday — Mrs. Hall

Knitting Department, Mrs. Ferdinand Curtis, Chairman

INSTRUCTORS

Monday — Mrs. R. L. Crandup

Tuesday — Mrs. C. P. Abbott

Wednesday — Mrs. A. C. Risner

Thursday — Mrs. Lyday

Friday — Mrs. Downing

Saturday — Mrs. Cotton

East Side — Mrs. Griffin

South Side — Mrs. Taylor

High School — Mesdames Jones and Abbott

FROM EXCHANGES

Alva Pioneer: The fellow who is noted for sharp practices and double dealing prates of his honesty and veracity even more than the man who is known to be dependable.

Hugo Husonian: A great many candidates are really much more in earnest about winning their way than "Winning the War." If we are to judge them by their speeches and their past and present activities.

Muskogee Times-Democrat: Mr. Schwab announced the launching of 89 ships from the ways of American shipyards Thursday. If that man Schwab gets a little further ahead of the shipbuilding schedule, President Wilson will probably slip another little job of building airplanes. A thousand of these a day would be about normal for Schwab or Henry Ford.

Treasury Dept. Bulletin: With recent loans of nearly \$16,000,000 to Greece and \$11,000,000 to Belgium, the aggregate loans made by the United States to our allies now amount to practically \$6,000,000.

Oklahoman: Germany's regulations for Poland make that country a conquered province for the next fifty years. Long before fifty years from now the kaiser's Polish regulations won't even be a scrap of paper.

Muskogee Times-Democrat: If we patriotically refrain from eating wheat bread and the corn meal mills sell corn meal at \$3.65 per hundred, and it is retailed at from \$7.00 to \$8.00 per hundred, and the mill sells corn flour at \$5.25 per hundred and it is retailed at \$10.00 per hundred, why is a price fixing committee?

Daily Oklahoman: The belittling remarks in an Oklahoma newspaper concerning the military service of the Roosevelt boys have aroused the anger of their father's indignation. Those boys are not dress-parade soldiers. They have sought no easy ornamental berth. They are out there in the midst of it. Three of them have already been decorated for gallantry in action. Their father cites these facts with just pride. With Theodore Roosevelt, obsessed by a mad political ambition, which he can never realize, many of us are more than weary. With Theodore Roosevelt, professional scold and unscrupulous political sniper, the majority of the people have lost patience. But with the wrath of a father at disparity referring to the distinguished conduct of his four soldier sons, everybody sympathizes.

Tulsa World: It may be best to prohibit the use of alcoholic drinks, even to the almost non-alcoholic beer. It is a small task to give up beer just now anyway, for the stuff reminds one incapable of things German. But prohibition does not necessarily make men temperate. There are lots of poor deluded souls now who will till up on pop, lemonade, ice cream soda, and near-beers until they are ready to swell up almost to the point of bursting, and think they are better than the man who is satisfied with one glass of beer. It may be said that the pop and beer will not make a man go home and beat his wife; but at least the virtue of temperance would be better exemplified if people would know when they had enough of even the best thing.

Tulsa World: When the gods would destroy they first make mad the degenerate scions of the house of Hapsburg and Hohenzollern agitated a world war to save their thrones from the advances of internal democracy, and in that very act spelled the abolition of all monarchies.

For State Senator (Bryan, Atoka, and Coal Counties) —

T. F. MEMMINGER, Atoka

WILBURN CARTWRIGHT, of Clarita, Okla.

For Representative —

DR. J. B. SMITH.

For Judge Sixth Judicial District —

J. M. CROOK.

JOHN L. BOLAND (Caddo),

For County Attorney —

CHAS. P. ABBOTT, (re-election).

VICTOR C. PHILLIPS.

For Sheriff —

DAVE WRIGHT.

W. M. McPATRIDGE.

EMMET BOYDSTON.

G. P. CARPENTER.

For County Clerk —

JOHN FINNEY, (re-election).

For Court Clerk —

SCOTT SHANNON.

LUCY GRIMES.

For County Treasurer —

CARL BEATY, (re-election).

For County Assessor —

RONNIE GLENN.

REV. J. T. CLINTON, Calera.

For County Superintendent —

J. LEE CUNNINGHAM.

J. T. RYLE.

For County Commissioner, Dist. 1 —

W. H. YEATS.

SAM B. ROSS.

WALTER L. RAMBO.

For County Commissioner, Dist. 2 —</p